



## McGREGOR W. SCOTT

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

## NEWS RELEASE

**Sacramento**  
501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel 916/554-2700  
TTY 916/554-2877

**Fresno**  
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel 559/497-4000  
TTY 559/497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**February 21, 2008**

Docket #: 08-mj-00024-GSA

Contact: Lauren Horwood  
916/554-2706

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **MADERA MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES, GIVEN HOME DETENTION, REQUIRED TO POST \$200,000 PROPERTY BOND**

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that PETER RALPH OHANIAN, 57, of Madera, California was indicted today by a federal grand jury, charged with one count of receiving and distributing and one count of possessing child pornography. The indictment alleges that from December 5, 2007 to February 13, 2008, OHANIAN received and distributed images involving the sexual exploitation of minors. In addition, the indictment alleges that on or about February 13, 2008, he was in possession of such images.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the FBI Cybercrimes Task Force in Fresno. The Task Force is comprised of the FBI, the United States Secret Service, California Department of Justice, the Fresno Police Department, and the Fresno Sheriff's Department.

On February 13, 2008, the FBI Cybercrimes Task Force executed a federal search warrant on OHANIAN's residence based on information that OHANIAN distributed approximately 70 images of child pornography via the Internet to an undercover law enforcement officer. On-site forensic examination revealed numerous images of child pornography depicting the sexual exploitation of minors contained on OHANIAN's computer hard drive and CD's. They located one of the computer hard drives in the toilet of OHANIAN's residence. OHANIAN later admitted that he threw the hard drive in the toilet, attempting to destroy it when he saw law enforcement approaching his residence. OHANIAN also admitted that he had two other hard drives containing child pornography hidden in his home, which were

later located in his garage.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictment, OHANIAN faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of five years imprisonment for receipt and distribution of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###